Operation of Shatabdi/Rajdhani Services

590. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any cost-benefit analysis so far as operation of Shatabdi and Rajdhani services are concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the earnings from Shatabdi and Rajdhani *vis-a-vis* other passenger and express train services; and

(d) whether Government proposes to improve the mail/express services catering to needs of the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The train-wise cost analysis is not done on the Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the period from April to December, 1998 the approximate earnings from 14 pairs of Shatabdi trains and 13 pairs of Rajdhani trains is Rs. 382.91 crores *vis-a-vis* Rs. 5508.22 crores from Passenger/Express trains.

(d) Effecting improvement in the quality of service on board the mail/express trains is the constant endeavour of the Railways and is a continuous process.

Traffic survey in Andhra Pradesh

591. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether periodic traffic surveys have been conducted by South Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh on the trends in rail passenger requirements;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate rail connections are not available between Hyderabad and districts of Cuddapah and Anantapur;

(c) whether any fast day-time trains are proposed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Adequate connections are available.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of signal and Safety Gadgets

592. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State-of-the art signal and safety gadgets to reduce rail accidents drastically are going to be introduced in Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The induction of modern technology for improvement of signalling system for enhancing safety of train operation is a constant endeavour.

(b) Track circuiting which prevents the human error by station staff resulting in

an accident is being progressively provided at various stations.

—Track circuiting from Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark within station limits has already been completed on A&B trunk routes of Railways and is expected to be completed on C route by 31.3.1999.

—Track circuiting of other sections within station limits is also being provided on a programmed basis.

—In addition along with Railway Electrification, Colour Light Signalling is being progressively provided in place of semaphore signalling.

—Modern signalling system such as Panel Interlocking, Route Relay Interlocking, Solid State Interlocking and Last Vehicle Check by Axle Counter etc. are being Progressively introduced through judicious use of available resources.

—Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) which prevents the human error by driver, resulting in accident has been installed in Mumbai suburban section. Trial of a radio based system is proposed to be taken up on Delhi-Mathura section of Central Railway.

Problems of Rail Reservations

593. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the absence of an out agency of Indian Railways, both Indian and Nepalese Nationals are facing problems in getting reservations at Kathmandu, Nepal; and

(b) if so, whether Government would open an out agency in Nepal, in order to help them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The proposal regarding opening of an Out agency in Nepal (Beerganj and Kathmandu) was considered but not found feasible to agree.

Bookstalls on Eastern, South Eastern Railways

594. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 769 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December, 1998 and State:

(a) what are the details of bookstalls, with names of stations, functioning on Eastern and South Eastern Railways; and

(b) the details of bookstall contracts renewed for a period of one year basis, instead of five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The details are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 11]

(b) Previously on Eastern Railway bookstall contracts were renewed for one year which has since been stopped with effect from October 1998 and now such contracts are renewed for every five years.

Late Running of Narsapur Express

595. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Narsapur Express is late in its journey from Secunderabad to Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh;